BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

MARY GRACE WEBER 210 Sunnybrook Drive Fortuna, CA 95540

Registered Nurse License No. 284314

Respondent

Case No. 2012-250

OAH No. 2011120904

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on March 4, 2013.

IT IS SO ORDERED February 2, 2013.

Raymond Mallel, President

Board of Registered Nursing

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS	
2	Attorney General of California FRANK H. PACOE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JUDITH J. LOACH	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 162030	·
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7	Attorneys for Complainant	
8	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS	
9		
10	STATE OF	CALIFORNIA
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2012-250
12	MARY GRACE WEBER	OAH No. 2011120904
13	210 Sunnybrook Drive Fortuna, CA 95540	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
14	Registered Nurse License No. 284314	DISCIPLINARY ORDER
15	Respondent.	
16		
17	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AG	REED by and between the parties to the above-
18	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:	
19	PARTIES	
20	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN ("Complainant") is the Executive Officer of the Board	
21	of Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in	
22	this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Judith J. Loach,	
23	Deputy Attorney General.	
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24	2. Respondent Mary Grace Weber ("Respondent") is represented in this proceeding by	
25	attorney Scott Kiepen, Esq., whose address is: Hooper, Lundy & Bookman PC, 575 Market	
26	Street, Suite 2300, San Francisco, CA 94105.	
27	3. On or about August 31, 1977, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered	
28	Nurse License No. 284314 to Respondent. The Registered Nurse License was in full force and	
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effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 2012-250 and will expire on February 28, 2013, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 4. Accusation No. 2012-250 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on October 24, 2011. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. 2012-250 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2012-250. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges in the Accusation No. 2012-250, if proven at hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline on her Registered Nurse License.
- 10. For the purpose of resolving this matter without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that at a hearing, Complaint could establish a factual

basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up her right to contest those charges.

11. Respondent agrees that her Registered Nurse License is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Registered Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 13. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 14. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.
- 15. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

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DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 284314 issued to Respondent Mary Grace Weber is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

Severability Clause. Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

2. Comply with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

- 3. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.
 - 4. Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State. Periods of residency or

practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when she resides outside of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where she has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if she applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

5. Submit Written Reports. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which she has a registered nurse license.

6. Function as a Registered Nurse. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this

condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

7. **Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to her employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

8. **Supervision.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Maximum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.
 - (b) Moderate The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient

care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.

- (c) Minimum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-toperson communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.
- (d) Home Health Care If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.
- 9. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required.

Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses.

The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

10. Complete a Nursing Course(s). Respondent, at her own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six

months prior to the end of her probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

11. **Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of \$4,724.00. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months prior to the end of the probation term.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation will apply.

12. Violation of Probation. If Respondent violates the conditions of her probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's license.

If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

13. License Surrender. During Respondent's term of probation, if she ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation, Respondent may surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any

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ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: August 27, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California FRANK H. PACOE Supervising Deputy Attorney General

JUDITH J. LOACH
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

SF2011200140

Exhibit A

Accusation No. 2012-250

1	Kamala D. Harris		
2	Attorney General of California FRANK H. PACOE		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JUDITH J. LOACH		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 162030		
5	455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004		
6	Telephone: (415) 703-5604 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480		
7 ·	E-mail: Judith.Loach@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant		
. 8	BEFORE THE		
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10			
11		1 0012-20	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2012 - 250	
13	MARY GRACE WEBER 210 Sunnybrook Drive	·	
14	Fortuna, CA 95540 Registered Nurse License No. 284314	ACCUSATION	
15	Respondent.		
16] .	
17	Complainant alleges:		
18	<u>PARTIES</u>		
19	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her		
20	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of		
21	Consumer Affairs.		
22	2. On or about August 31, 1977, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered		
23	Nurse License Number 284314 to Mary Grace Weber ("Respondent"). The Registered Nurse		
24	License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will		
25	expire on February 28, 2013, unless renewed.		
26	///		
27		v.	
	///		
28	/// ///		

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

6. Section 2761 of the Code states:

"The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- "(1) Incompetence, or gross negligence in carrying out usual certified or licensed nursing functions.

7. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1442, states:

"As used in Section 2761 of the code, 'gross negligence' includes an extreme departure from the standard of care which, under similar circumstances, would have ordinarily been exercised by a competent registered nurse. Such an extreme departure means the repeated failure to provide nursing care as required or failure to provide care or to exercise ordinary precaution in a single situation which the nurse knew, or should have known, could have jeopardized the client's health or life."

8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1443, states:

"As used in Section 2761 of the code, 'incompetence' means the lack of possession of or the failure to exercise that degree of learning, skill, care and experience ordinarily possessed and exercised by a competent registered nurse as described in Section 1443.5."

9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1443.5 states:

"A registered nurse shall be considered to be competent when he/she consistently demonstrates the ability to transfer scientific knowledge from social, biological and physical sciences in applying the nursing process, as follows:

- "(1) Formulates a nursing diagnosis through observation of the client's physical condition and behavior, and through interpretation of information obtained from the client and others, including the health team.
- "(2) Formulates a care plan, in collaboration with the client, which ensures that direct and indirect nursing care services provide for the client's safety, comfort, hygiene, and protection, and for disease prevention and restorative measures.
- "(3) Performs skills essential to the kind of nursing action to be taken, explains the health treatment to the client and family and teaches the client and family how to care for the client's health needs.
- "(4) Delegates tasks to subordinates based on the legal scopes of practice of the subordinates and on the preparation and capability needed in the tasks to be delegated, and effectively supervises nursing care being given by subordinates.
- "(5) Evaluates the effectiveness of the care plan through observation of the client's physical condition and behavior, signs and symptoms of illness, and reactions to treatment and through communication with the client and health team members, and modifies the plan as needed.
- "(6) Acts as the client's advocate, as circumstances require, by initiating action to improve health care or to change decisions or activities which are against the interests or wishes of the client, and by giving the client the opportunity to make informed decisions about health care before it is provided."

COST RECOVERY

10. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 11. At all relevant times, Respondent was the Director of Nursing ("DON") at Granada Healthcare and Rehab Center ("GHRC"), a skilled nursing facility in Eureka, California. As the DON, Respondent "assumed the ultimate responsibility for coordinating plans for the total care of each resident which comply with physician's orders, governmental regulations and facility resident care policies." Respondent was part of an Interdisciplinary Team ("IDT") at GHRC that was to conduct weekly rounds to ensure that nursing care plans and progress notes accurately reflected the management of resident's with pressure ulcers. ¹
- 12. On or about November 5, 2008, P.R. was admitted to GHRC. She was 91 years old, with a history of diabetes and a right hip fracture which was being treated by a leg immobilizer brace.
- 13. On admission, GRHC staff failed to institute a pressure ulcer or skin integrity care plan for prevention of pressure ulcers and/or interventions regarding P.R.'s immobilizer brace.
- 14. On November 18, 2008, P.R. was noted to have a Stage II pressure ulcer on her right heel. There were no further assessments until December 1, 2008 at which time P.R.'s pressure ulcer was classified as being at a Stage IV.
- 15. A non-urgent referral was made by GRHC staff on December 8, 2008, for P.R. to be evaluated at the Mad River Community Hospital Wound Clinic, with an appointment scheduled approximately one month later on January 5, 2009.

A pressure ulcer is defined as any lesion caused by unrelieved pressure which results in damage to underlying tissue(s). They are graded from Stage I to Stage IV to classify the degree of tissue damage. A Stage IV pressure ulcer is the most serious and is evidenced by full thickness skin loss with exposed bone, tendon and/or muscle.

- 16. P.R.'s right heel pressure ulcer progressively worsened. At the time she presented to the Wound Clinic on January 5, 2009, her right leg had extensive necrotic (dead) tissue with her Achilles tendon fully exposed and foul smelling drainage.
- 17. The Wound Clinic immediately referred P.R. to Saint Joseph's Hospital where she underwent amputation of her right lower leg due to gangrene.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence/Incompetence – Failure to Ensure Implementation of Pressure

Ulcer/Skin Integrity Care Plan)

18. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2761(a)(1) for gross negligence and/or incompetence in that as the DON, she failed to ensure that GHRC staff implemented a pressure ulcer/skin integrity care plan to monitor P.R., as set forth above in paragraphs 11 through 17.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence/Incompetence – Failure to Ensure Appropriate

Monitoring of Right Heel Pressure Ulcer)

19. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2761(a)(1) for gross negligence and/or incompetence in that as the DON, she failed to ensure that nursing staff were appropriately monitoring P.R.'s right heel pressure ulcer, as set forth above in paragraphs 11 through 17.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence/Incompetence – Failure to Conduct Weekly Rounds on Resident's With

Pressure Ulcers)

20. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2761(a)(1) for gross negligence and/or incompetence in that as the DON, she failed to conduct random rounds with the treatment nurses and/or wound team members to ensure compliance with GRHC's pressure ulcer management policy, as set forth above in paragraphs 11 through 17.

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27 28 FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence/Incompetence – Failure to Ensure Timely Referral)

Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2761(a)(1) for gross negligence and/or incompetence in that as the DON, she failed to ensure that P.R. was timely seen at the Wound Care Clinic, as set forth above in paragraphs 11 through 17.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence/Incompetence – Failure To Timely Notify Physician)

22. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2761(a)(1) for gross negligence and/or incompetence in that as the DON, she failed to ensure that P.R.'s physician was updated on the severity of her pressure ulcer, as set forth above in paragraphs 11 through 17.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 284314, issued to Mary Grace Weber.
- 2. Ordering Mary Grace Weber to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3.
 - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

notables 24,2011

JISE R. BAILEY, M.ED

Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant

SF2011200140

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Accusation